



United States
Department of
Agriculture

JUN 22 2010

Food and
Nutrition
Service

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SUBJECT: WIC Program Policy Memo 2010-8
Update on the Continuing Delay of Publication of DHHS Poverty
Guidelines

TO: Regional Directors
Supplemental Food Programs
All Regions

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update on the status of income eligibility determinations for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) in light of the continued delay in the publication of the updated poverty guidelines issued by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

This delay may impact the ability of WIC State agencies to make income eligibility determinations after June 30, 2010, when the current Income Eligibility Guidelines (IEGs) usually expire. In making income eligibility determinations, WIC State agencies should continue to utilize the current 2009-2010 IEGs to make such determinations until further notice. Such determinations shall be effective for the certification periods set forth in the applicable WIC regulations.

A question has also been raised in relation to the WIC IEGs regarding what must be printed on materials for the WIC Program. Because of the delayed release of the DHHS poverty guidelines, and to prevent disruption of WIC benefits, State agencies have the option to forgo, *for this year only*, printing the IEGs by family size on any printed materials related to the WIC Program.

Further questions about the WIC IEGs should be directed to the appropriate FNS Regional Office.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Debra R. Whitford", is positioned above the printed name and title.

DEBRA R. WHITFORD
Director
Supplemental Food Programs Division